GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1545
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001
DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH BENGAL
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission have received several representations from the M.Ps regarding development of North Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Planning Commission in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN TH MINISTRIES OF PLANNING, STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir, the Planning Commission has received representations from the Hon`ble Member of the House regarding lack of infrastructure and development facilities and the problem of recurring flood in the districts of the North Bengal. The economic activities relating to Industry and Agriculture are also said to be lagging behind compared to the rest of the State. Some of these issues had also been raised by him earlier under special mention in the House.

(c): Balanced economic growth of all areas of the State is the responsibility of the State Government. Therefore, steps for reduction of regional economic imbalances by implementing appropriate development Programmes have to be taken by the State Government only. Accordingly, letters have been addressed in the past to the Chief Minister of West Bengal regarding the points raised by the Hon`ble Member. The Government of West Bengal has been requested to intimate steps initiated to accelerate development of the region. In this context, the State Government has recently constituted North Bengal Development Council for integrated and coordinated development of the region with the Chief Minister as its Chairman. The Council is in the process of preparing a long term perspective plan.